

Instruction

Home and Hospital Instruction¹

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse anticipates that the student will be absent from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital.² Eligibility shall be determined by State law and the Ill. State Board of Education rules governing (1) the continuum of placement options for students who have been identified for special education services or (2) the home and hospital instruction provisions for students who have not been identified for special education services.³ Appropriate educational services from qualified staff will begin no later than five school days after receiving a written statement from: (1) a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, (2) a licensed physician assistant, or (3) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse.⁴ Instructional or related services for a student receiving special education services will be determined by the student's individualized education program.

A student who is unable to attend school because of pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, the fulfillment of parenting obligations related to the health of the child, or health and safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence as defined in 105 ILCS 5/26A, will be provided home instruction, correspondence courses, or other courses of instruction under the following circumstances:⁵

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. The following State laws and ISBE rules govern homebound and hospital instruction: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6a, amended by P.A. 102-466, eff. 7-1-25 (home instruction and correspondence courses for students who are pregnant, parenting, or victims of domestic or sexual violence under 105 ILCS 5/26A); 105 ILCS 5/14-13.01 (reimbursement for home and hospital instruction along with factors to qualify for it); 105 ILCS 5/18-4.5 (reimbursement for home and hospital instruction); 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(e) (an instructional session of one clock hour may be counted as ½ day of attendance, however, a student must receive four or more instructional clock hours to count as a full day of attendance); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §226.300 (home/hospital service for a special education student); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.520.

See ISBE guidance, *Home/Hospital Instruction and Reimbursement Questions and Answers* available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Home-Hospital_QA.pdf. At the time of PRESS Issue 118's publication (Apr. 2025), this guidance had not been updated to reflect changes to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6a, amended by P.A. 102-466, eff. 7-1-25.

² 105 ILCS 5/14-13.01 defines the standards for determining when a student is eligible to receive home or hospital instruction. A student qualifies when a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse *anticipates* a student's absence due to a medical condition. The law defines "ongoing intermittent basis" to mean a medical condition of such a nature and severity that it is anticipated that the student will be absent from school due to the medical condition for periods of at least two days at a time multiple times during the school year totaling at least 10 days or more of absences.

³ 105 ILCS 5/14-13.01(a-5) requires that all students provide a written statement from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse stating the existence of a medical condition, the impact on the child's ability to participate in education, and the anticipated duration or nature of the child's absence from school. However, ISBE rules at 23 Ill.Admin.Code §226.300 (students qualifying for special education services) and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.520 (students not qualifying for special education services) have not yet been amended to reflect that this written statement may come from a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse; they still state that such a written statement must come from a physician. ISBE's *Medical Certification for Home/Hospital Instruction* form, form 34-58, reflects that the written statement may come from a "physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, APRN, or PA." Available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Medical-certification-home-hospital-instruction.pdf.

A student with health needs may be protected by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1401(3)) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. §794(a))

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/14-13.01(a-5). There is no requirement that a student be absent from school for a minimum number of days before he or she qualifies for home or hospital instruction. 105 ILCS 5/14-13.01(a). The statute allows schools to begin home or hospital instruction upon receipt of a written statement from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse but requires it to begin no later than five school days after receipt of the written statement.

Both 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§226.300(g) and 1.520(f) require home or hospital instructors to meet the requirements listed in 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.610, i.e., proper licensure as required by 105 ILCS 5/21B-15.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6a, amended by P.A. 102-466, eff. 7-1-25. Number (2) does not require a written statement from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse. See sample policy 7:255, *Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence*.

1. Before the birth of the child when the student's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse indicates, in writing, that she is medically unable to attend regular classroom instruction.
2. For up to three months after the child's birth or a miscarriage.
3. When a student must care for his or her ill child if:
 - a. The child's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse informs the District, in writing, that the child has a serious health condition⁶ that would require the student to be absent from school for two or more consecutive weeks; and
 - b. The student or the student's parent/guardian informs the District, in writing, that the student needs to care for the child during this period.
4. The student must treat physical or mental health complications or address safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence when a health care provider or an employee of the student's domestic or sexual violence organization, as defined in 105 ILCS 5/26A, informs the District, in writing, that the care is needed by the student and will cause the student's absence from school for two or more consecutive weeks.

The District may reassess home instruction provided to a student under No. 3 or No. 4 every two months to determine the student's continuing need for home instruction.

Periodic conferences will be held between appropriate school personnel, parent(s)/guardian(s), and hospital staff to coordinate course work and facilitate a student's return to school.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(e), 5/10-22.6a, 5/14-13.01, and 5/18-4.5.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.520, 1.610, and 226.300.

CROSS REF.: 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:280 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease)

⁶ *Serious health condition* means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental health condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility or continuing treatment by a health care provider that is not controlled by medication alone. Id.